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STATE OF MONTANA

BULLETIN

OF THE

Department of Public Health

Vol. 5

April 15, 1912

No. 1

MONTANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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EMIL STARZ, Ph. D., Bacteriologist.

HELENA, MONTANA

Published Monthly at Helena, by the State Board of Health.

"The science of disease prevention, if properly applied, can add fifteen years to the present average length of human life."—Prof. Irving Fisher, Yale.

This Bulletin will be mailed monthly to any person in Montana upon request mailed to the Secretary of the State Board of Health at Helena.



WHY WORRY ABOUT SMALLPOX?

(Copy of Letter written this Department and Reply).

"Joplin, Mont., April 14th, 1912.

Dr. T. D. Tuttle,

Helena, Mont.

Dear Doctor:

As there are so many here who are alarmed over a case of smallpox, I would ask your advice. Dr. A. E. Ripperton declares it a well developed case of smallpox and it is admitted that he had been exposed in N. Dakota just before coming here. Dr. Almas of Havre informed the Doctor here that there was no quarantine law here. Dr. Ripperton, at the request of the people put up a smallpox placard, but a number of the people seem to mingle there just the same, and as a result the whole town is running a risk of being exposed. What would be the proper safe-guard?

Hoping to hear from you by return mail and thanking you in advance for your favors, I am.

Respectfully,

(Signed) H. A. Nelson."

(Reply):

"Helena, Montana, April 16th, 1912.

Mr. H. A. Nelson,

Joplin, Montana.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favor of the 14th, would say that the State Board of Health does not require quarantine for smallpox.

Quarantine is a mere makeshift. You have a sure preventative in vaccination. There is no sense in anybody having smallpox unless they want it. Therefore why should the people pay for quarantine? There is one way to prevent smallpox and that is vaccination. If you are vaccinated, you have nothing to worry about. If you are not vaccinated, take your choice between vaccination and smallpox. You will be sure to have one or the other sooner or later.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) T. D. TUTTLE,

Secretary.

PRIZE ESSAY ON "THE FLY."

Last month we published the prize essay on a dirty back yard. We hope that a few of those who read this essay have already cleaned their dirty back yards.

Now go back and read the essay relative to a dirty back yard and attach the dirty back yard to the fly regarding which this little girl has written so well. Remember that flies hatch only in dirty places. Remember that typhoid fever is a result of filthy habits only, that with absolutely cleanly habits typhoid fever would be wiped from the face of the earth.

Let Montana take a lesson from these children's essays and let the parents of these children, and I include every child in Montana, determine that typhoid fever shall disappear from the State. It can be done, if the information set forth in the essay last month on the dirty back yard and the essay this month on the fly is profited by.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A HOUSE FLY.

(By Chloris Powell—Virginia City).

One chilly October morning I entered the schoolroom very early and sat down at my desk. I was in the act of taking up a book when my eye lighted on a small house fly cramped between a crevice of the desk. His stiffened wings and legs had exchanged their glossy sheen for a dull metallic black. His lack lustre eyes reflecting his stoical soul gazed at me without fear. I invited confidence and he began thus:

I am an aged housefly. Sixty days and nights have passed over my head. Now that I have found you to write my memoirs, I shall dictate them and die content.

The first thing I can remember is awakening one morning and finding myself in a manure pile with many of kindred. We were all very dirty.

When I saw my comrades flying away I thought that I should be left alone but found, to my amazement, that I could follow them.

After flying for some distance we came to a back-yard which was almost as dirty as my first home. After searching for some time we found a large garbage can which held a reception

for us. Finally the can became so crowded that I left and went to a pile of decaying fish heads in another corner of the yard.

After leaving this yard, where we had crawled over all the dirt and filth we entered a bakery where we feasted on cakes, pies, cookies, etc. As there were no screens on the windows or doors, or over the food we had no difficulty in satisfying our hunger. On one of the tables, amidst the cakes and pies, was a large paper covered with a yellow, sticky substance, in the center of which was a piece of lovely red jelly. I was just about to help myself when one of my companions said, "Don't go near that paper; it would be certain death." This instrument of fly torture was the only thing that rendered this shop an inconvenient home for us. Each day brought its adventure. In the course of the next few weeks, with my companions, I visited many delightfully dirty grocery stores, alley garbage cans, and kitchens. I learned to avoid as the death all clean places for even if I did gain a difficult entrance through some tiny hole in a well screened window or door, I found little to reward my efforts. For some weeks I led a happy care-free life. It was delightful. With the coming of hot weather however, my life was made increasingly miserable by the traps laid for my destruction in cleanly kitchens and bakeries. My remote ancestors were a free and happy race. People did not then realize that we are a menace to health. Now life has become unbearable because of the inventions of people to destroy us. One day I fell into a glass of lemonade which a waiter was carrying to the dining room. When the gentleman saw me in the lemonade he ordered the waiter to carry that lemonade away. The waiter carried it into the kitchen. I had just decided that my end had come when to my great joy, he put his fingers into the glass and took me out. I felt very light because so many of the germs on my body were left in the glass of lemonade, which the waiter, after getting rid of me, carried back to his customer.

Our worst enemies are people, spiders and centipedes. We are pursued with poison, folded newspapers, traps and wire swatters. We are regarded as undesirable and lead a hard and exciting life. The once despised spider is now a friend of the household because of his appetite for flies. Most people screen

their windows and doors so that we cannot enter their homes, even when we are starving or freezing. They keep their premises so clean that we find no food. They try to keep us away from the sick room where we could find many of our friends, the germs. They are trying to get the children interested in us so that they, too, will start a crusade against us. However, we still have friends. Their homes are filthy. They have no screens on their windows and doors and we may come and go at will, without fear of some enemy waiting to destroy us. Their premises which are never cleaned are germ breeding places. Such places are visited daily by us.

We flies boast of being the most dangerous animal, for we carry such deadly diseases as Asiatic cholera, malaria, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, and even smallpox. We are even accused of carrying infantile paralysis. We visit the home of a patient, ill with some contagious disease. We become covered with germs. Then we visit some well person until we are free from them. We crawl over decaying vegetable matter, dirty garbage cans and through all kinds of dirt and filth. Then we alight on the food which people are to eat. If people do not desire our company why do they keep everything dirty. When we find filth in or around people's homes we take it as an invitation to enter. We do not visit clean places. Why should we be feared as we are and why should people destroy us? Simply because we are dirty and carry germs? We must have some work to do and the germs must have friends. We are very obliging to our friends the germs but feel that they sometimes impose upon our good nature as there are always several million crowded upon our back at once.

Yesterday I was accidentally imprisoned in a lunch pail which a school boy brought from home. I feasted on his lunch all morning and when, at noon, he took the cover off the pail, I flew out and found myself in this room. Last night for the first time I felt the blighting breath of Jack Frost and I realize that my time has come to die. Now that you have written my biography, I shall die content.

Thus ended the tale of the fly.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED FOR THE
MONTH OF MARCH, 1912.

SMALLPOX—Cases of Smallpox were reported as follows: Chouteau, 1; Great Falls, 1; Fergus, 3; Hill, 3; Lincoln, 4; Helena, 1; Teton, 31; total, 45; total last month, 36.

DIPHTHERIA—Cases of Diphtheria were reported as follows: Chouteau, 1; Fergus, 1; Powell, 1; Ravalli, 1; Billings, 1; total, 5; total last month, 15.

SCARLET FEVER—Cases of Scarlet Fever were reported as follows: Broadwater, 1; Carbon, 18; Custer, 6; Great Falls, 1; Dawson, 1; Anaconda, 1; Gallatin (Excl. of Bozeman), 6; Meagher, 2; Silver Bow (Excl. of Butte), 5; Butte, 10; Teton, 2; total, 53; total last month, 70.

TYPHOID FEVER—Cases of Typhoid Fever were reported as follows: Blaine, 2; Carbon, 2; Dawson, 1; Kalispell, 1; Fergus, 1; Meagher, 1; Billings, 2; total, 10; total last month, 10.

MEASLES—Cases of Measles were reported as follows: Carbon, 3; Chouteau, 5; Great Falls, 2; Dawson, 1; Gallatin (Excl. of Bozeman), 2; Bozeman, 1; Hill, 55; Helena, 7; Madison, 9; Rosebud, 1; Butte, 1; total, 87; total last month, 22.

**DEATHS (EXCLUSIVE OF STILLBIRTHS) REPORTED TO THE STATE
BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1912,
ARRANGED ACCORDING TO COUNTIES AND CITIES.**

	Totals	All Other Causes	Alcoholism	Suicide	Violence	Acute Intestinal Diseases	Malignant Tumors	Organic Heart Disease	Nephritis	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Meningitis	Typhoid Fever	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Small Pox	Spotted Fever
Beaverhead	2				1	1													
Broadwater	7	2																	
Carbon	13	6																	
Cascade (Excl. of)	4	2																	
Great Falls	26	13	1	1															
Chouteau	3																		
Custer	6	3																	
Dawson	10	5		2															
Deer Lodge (Excl. of)	11	10																	
Anaconda	13	7																	
Fergus	6	3																	
Flathead (Excl. of)	10	7																	
Kalispell	6	3		1															
Gallatin (Excl. of)	6	3																	
Bozeman	8	2																	
Granite	5	1			2														
Jefferson	3	1																	
Lewis and Clark (Excl. of)	7	3	1																
Helena	10	3																	
Lincoln	1				1														
Madison	3																		
Meagher	6	4			1														
Missoula (Excl. of)	6	3			1														
Missoula City	15				1	1													
Musselshell	5	3																	
Park (Excl. of)	7	3																	
Livingston	4	3																	
Powell	5	1																	
Ravalli	8	4		1	1														
Rosebud	1																		
Sanders	1																		
Silver Bow (Excl. of)	19	2	1																
Butte	43	15	1		5														
Sweet Grass	8	5																	
Teton	10	4		1															
Valley	8	4																	
Yellowstone (Excl. of)	8	3																	
Billings	9	1																	
Hill	4																		
Blaine	5	1																	
Totals	331	136	4	5	20	6	15	26	14	53	3	1	1	1	4	42			

Population 375,000.

Monthly Death Rate per 1,000 population .882.

Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population 10.58.

**BIRTHS REPORTED TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE
MONTH OF MARCH, 1912, AND COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND
DEATH RECORD IN THE STATE.**

	Males	Females	Totals	Deaths	Excess of births	Excess of deaths
Beaverhead	3	6	9	2	7	..
Broadwater	7	7	14	7	7	..
Carbon	20	16	36	13	23	..
Cascade (Excl. of)	7	7	14	4	10	..
Great Falls	22	17	39	26	13	..
Chouteau	2	3	5	3	2	..
Custer	9	4	13	6	7	..
Dawson	14	14	28	10	18	..
Deer Lodge (Excl. of) .....	..	..	..	11	..	11
Anaconda	13	8	21	13	8	..
Fergus	12	9	21	6	15	..
Flathead (Excl. of)	10	10	20	10	10	..
Kallispell	11	11	22	6	16	..
Gallatin (Excl. of)	10	8	18	6	12	..
Bozeman	6	5	11	8	3	..
Granite	3	3	6	5	1	..
Jefferson	1	1	2	3	..	1
Lewis and Clark (Excl. of)	7	3	10	7	3	..
Helena	14	14	28	10	18	..
Lincoln .....	..	4	4	1	3	..
Madison	6	6	12	3	9	..
Meagher	2	3	5	6	..	1
Missoula (Excl. of)	5	6	11	6	5	..
Missoula City	14	9	23	15	8	..
Musselshell	10	5	15	5	10	..
Park (Excl. of)	4	5	9	7	2	..
Livingston	6	8	14	4	10	..
Powell	2	2	4	5	..	1
Ravalli	5	3	8	8	..	..
Rosebud	4	12	16	1	15	..
Sanders	1	3	4	1	3	..
Silver Bow (Excl. of)	18	13	31	19	12	..
Butte	36	31	67	43	24	..
Sweet Grass	5	5	10	8	2	..
Teton	18	10	28	10	18	..
Valley	17	18	35	7	28	..
Yellowstone (Excl. of)	15	15	30	8	22	..
Billings	9	12	21	9	12	..
Hill	7	12	19	4	15	..
Blaine	4	1	5	5	..	..
Totals	359	329	688	331	371	..